IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In the Application of: |) |
|--|---------------------------|
| Saliba |) |
| Serial No. |) EXPRESS MAIL NO: |
| Filed: Herewith |) EV 303 832 978 US |
| For: Method and Apparatus for Stock Index Option Price Improvement, Participation, and Internalization |) DATE: February 25; 2004 |
| Examiner: Patel, Jagdish |) |
| Group Art Unit: 3624 | |

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u>

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that the references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449 be considered in the examination of the above-identified patent application.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.98(d), copies of the references can be found in the file history of United States Application No. 09/621,769, filed July 21, 2000, from which the current application claims priority.

This submission, is in no way intended as an admission that the above-cited references

constitute prior art under any subsection of 35 U.S.C. § 102. Applicant expressly retains the

right to take any actions necessary to remove the above-cited references from the available prior

art.

Consideration of the above-identified references in the examination of the present patent

application is respectfully requested.

No fee is believed to be due because it is believed that this statement is being filed with

the application. Please charge any fees due in connection with this statement to Deposit Account

13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 24, 2004

Joseph M. Butscher Reg. No. 48,326

| Form PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (Rev. 8-83) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | | | | | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | SERIAL NO. |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|-------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| | | DISCLOSURE CITAT ts if necessary) | ION | | | 12778US03 | |
| | | | | | | APPLICANT: Saliba | |
| | | | | | | FILING DATE Herewith | GROUP ART UNIT: 3624 |
| | | U.S. PATENT DO | CUMENTS | | | | |
| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
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EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

3/25/03

6,539,362

*EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Patterson, Jr. et al.

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| | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | |
|--|---|--------------------|------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|--|
| | į | | | : | | YES | NO | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| | ВВ | | |
| | СС | | |
| EXAMINER | | DATE CONSIDERED | |

^{*}EXAMINER: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.